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FOLKLORE MEDICINE AMONG GEORGIA'S PIEDMONT
NEGROES AFTER THE CIVIL WAR

By D. E. CADWALLADER* and F. J. WILSON**

A great mass of original material concerning the pragmatic practice of medicine in the folklore of Georgia was found virtually untouched, although readily available, in the Special Collection Division, University of Georgia Libraries. This material consisted of unpublished manuscripts reporting in detail the interviews of the personnel of Atlanta unit of the Georgia Writers' Project, W. P. A., conducted in their study, "Georgia Folklore," and in the "Slave Interviews."

Apparently, in the belief that the rapidly changing social and economic status of the Negro in the period from the turn of the century to the time of the project was introducing a loss or destruction of their older folkways, the Atlanta unit concentrated on interviewing the older Negroes, or at least the manuscripts in the University files are so concentrated. In addition, the interviews in these manuscripts were limited to the Piedmont area Negro. Each interview was planned to cover all phases of folklore, but the thoroughness of coverage seems to have been left to the interests of the interviewer, the memory of the client, and to chance.

After the Civil War, Negroes generally seem to have resorted to root doctors ("conjur doctors") in the belief that any illness or other troubles were caused by the evil acts of an enemy. Of course a few treatments were learned from the plantation mistress and other sources and these were passed down. The manuscript interviews were devoted to the medicinal folklore that was developed and retained by Negroes living in the Piedmont area of Georgia in the fifty to seventy-five years following the Civil War.

It was the purpose of this paper to extract from the W. P. A. manuscripts all references to the medicinal uses of plants, including, whenever possible, plant name, use and dosage forms, as well as

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special techniques in preparing and/or administering the final preparation. Because of the client's ages and memories and interviewing technique, full information was not always recorded. However, it is known that most primitive medicines were administered as Galenicals, prepared from the crude drug, either roots or herbs (tops of non-woody plants), or sometimes from flowers. These preparations, as a group, were relatively weak and were administered in considerable quantity, often "as much as the patient will drink." Effort was then made to identify the plant toxonomically. This was not always an easy task since many common names may apply to two or a dozen species.

Several phases of the medicinal folklore of the Piedmont Negro were deliberately deleted as not within the scope of this study. Despite their clear historical interest, plainly superstitious practices were omitted, except when administration of a plant preparation in any form was involved. Thus references to plant preparations worn as amulets, rubbed on the hat, buried under door steps, etc., were omitted. All preparations not involving plants were omitted. We can note some comparative and historical value in the frequent references to sheep dung tea to ease teething pains or to chicken manure as a specific for scarlet fever, but examples such as these were not included in this study.

All of the data collected in this study are compiled in the Table. The medicinal plants are listed in alphabetical order according to their common or local names. Whenever possible, the botanical origins (Latin names) are included under the heading Proper Name. A blank space is left where it was impossible to relate the local name to any specific botanical origin. In other cases where the local name may refer to several or many botanical origins, notes are used to discuss the various possibilities. The part or parts of the plant used in the preparation of the medicine are listed. The use, preparation and dosage form are probably the most interesting portions of this study both from historical and pharmaceutical points of view. Notes have been used liberally, since, in most cases, the use, preparation and/or dosage form are unique for the particular plant.

Although there no doubt was an anthropological loss resulting from the inadequate training of the personnel conducting the original interviews, it is indeed fortunate that such studies were carried out to give us the valuable manuscripts on medicinal folklore. The manuscripts of the Writers' Project have preserved a portion of Georgia folklore and pharmaceutical history that is rapidly vanishing. The original material is not only of historical value but also provides information for the identification and determination of the possible worth of plants whose use lies deep in regional folklore. Indeed, many of these plants may have been discarded or rejected by earlier workers as valueless or of superstitious interest only, or may have been by-passed in the often uncritical rush to newer treatments. It is felt that some of the data in this report will provide a basis for carrying out extraction, chemical and biological studies on some of the plants used in Georgia folklore.

TABLE

Common Name	Proper Name	Part Used	Folklore Use	Preparation & Form Used
Alder	<i>Alnus</i> spc.	bark	boils, carbuncles, "proud flesh" at injury site; healing ointment	infusion-wash ointment ¹
Alder, Swamp	<i>Alnus rugosa</i>	bark	blood tonic	infusion-tea
Ash, Prickly	<i>Xanthoxylum clava</i>	root	rheumatism	decoction-wash
Balm of Giliad	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	buds	burns, general healing ointment	salve ² ointment ³
Bearfoot	<i>Helleborus foetidus</i>		sores	poultice ⁴
Birthroot	<i>Trillium</i> spc. ⁵	root	starts labor pains; produces faster birth	decoction-tea
Bitter Gourd		leaves	emetic	infusion-tea
Bittersweet	<i>Celastrus scandens</i> ⁶	root	healing ointment ingred.	ointment ⁷
Blackberry	<i>Rubus</i> spc.	root	diarrhea; dysentery, rheumatism	infusion-tea ⁸ wash
Blacksnake root ⁹		root	cramp colic; belly-ache	infusion-tea
Bloodroot	<i>Sanquinaria canadensis</i>	rhizome	tetters, exzema	aceta ¹⁰ -wash
Blue Flag ¹¹		root	dropsy	syrup ¹²
Boneset	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	tops	colds; sweat out fevers	decoction-tea ¹³
Butterfly Weed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>		pleurisy; insommnia, see Skunk Cabbage	solution
Button Bush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i> L.	berries	tonic, cardiac stimulant	infusion-tea ¹⁴
Calamus	<i>Acorus calamus</i>	root	stomach ache, dysentery, colic	candy ¹⁵
Catnip	<i>Nepata Cataria</i>	leaves	hives	infusion-tea
Cherry	<i>Prunus Serotina</i>	bark	tonic (purifies the blood), malaria fever ingred.	solution ¹⁶
Chinaberry	<i>Melia azedarach</i> L.	top	"good for wormy children"	solution ¹⁷
Cocklebur	<i>Santhium</i> spc.		rattlesnake bite, rheumatism	paste ¹⁸
Corn Drug	<i>Agrostemma githago</i>		congestion, lung pneumonia	inhalant, poultice ¹⁹
Corn	Several species	dust shucks fruit	colic (charred corn dust), measles, diarrhea (burned cornbread)	infusion-tea
Cotton	Several species	root leaves	abhortifacient, fever	infusion-tea crude poultice ²⁰

Common Name	Proper Name	Part Used	Folklore Use	Preparation & Form Used
Crowfoots	<i>Ranunculus</i> spc.		diarrhea	infusion-tea ²¹
Deer-Tongue	<i>Trillisa odora-tissima</i>	leaves roots	digestant, stronger digestant	infusion-tea
Dogwood	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	bark	tonic, malarial fevers	infusion-tea
Dog Fennel	<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.	blossoms	dysentery, fever	infusion-tea ²²
Dog Fern			chills and fever	infusion-tea
Elbow root			swelling feet-ingred.	solution ²³
Elderberry	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	leaves bark ²⁴	baby rash, fever, astrigent, rheumatism	
Elecampane	<i>Inula helenium</i>	root	whooping cough dropsy-ingred.	syrup ²⁵
Fig	<i>Ficus</i>	juice	ringworm	crude-drops ²⁶
Flax	<i>Linum</i> spc.	seed	inflammation	poultice ²⁷
Flux Weed			for flux	infusion-tea
Goldenrod	<i>Solidago</i>		chills and fever	infusion-tea
Heartsease ²⁸			kidneys, kidney-stones	infusion-tea
Houseleek	<i>Sempervivum tectorum</i>	root	"risings"	poultice
Honey	plant product		sore mouth, "thrush"	paint
Horsemint	<i>Monardo fistulosa</i> ²⁹	leaves	dysentery, stomachic, menstruation after confinement	infusion-tea
Jessamine, Yellow	<i>Gelsenium sempervirens</i> ³⁰	root	diarrhea	tea
Jerusalem Oak	<i>Chenopodium</i> spc.	seeds	spring tonic, worms, powerful emetic	syrup candy ³¹
Jimson Weed	<i>Datura stramonium</i>	various	"heart dropsy," headache, high blood pressure, infected nail wounds, old sores	poultice ³² ointment ³³
Lady Slipper	<i>Cypripedium</i> spc.		pleurisy, insomnia see Skunk Cabbage	
Lightwood	Pine species	splinters	chest colds, pneumonia	infusion-tea ³⁴
Liverwort ³⁵			cough	infusion-tea
Mullein	<i>Verbascum</i> spc.	herb leaves	a "favorite remedy," teething, gotter, cough to head a boil, tonic, cough, swelling feet	infusion-tea aceta-lotion ³⁶ syrup ³⁷ crude hot poultice syrup ³⁸ solution ³⁹

Common Name	Proper Name	Part Used	Folklore Use	Preparation & Form Used
Peach ⁴⁰		leaves leaves leaves leaves leaves leaves kernels	constipation head a boil fever fever infant cholera, vomiting ease pain and draw fever insect, bee and spider bites	greens poultice ⁴¹ poultice ⁴² infusion-tea syrup ⁴³ poultice ⁴⁴ poultice ⁴⁵
Pennyroyal	Hedeoma pulegioides ⁴⁶	herb	colds ("excellent"), fleas ⁴⁷	tea
Pine	Several species	buds needles tar	cough colds, bronchitis pulmonary troubles	syrup ⁴⁸ tea ⁴⁹ tea ⁵⁰
Plum, Wild	Prunus americana	root, bark	asthma	tea ⁵¹
Pumpkin	Several species	seed	worms in children	infusion-tea
Pokeberry	Phytolacca americana	root tops	rheumatism boils rheumatism, blood tonic	liniment ⁵² decoction-topical food ⁵³
Pomegranate	Ricinus communis	seed	dysentery	infusion-tea
Poplar, White	Populus alba	bark	"to purify the blood"	infusion-tea
Quince		seed	malaria	infusion-tea
Rabbit Tobacco	Gnaphalium obtusifolium	herb	whooping cough, aphrodisiac, lucheria	tea ⁵⁴ tea ⁵⁵ infusion-tea ⁵⁶
Ragweed			fever	poultice ⁵⁷
Rattlesnake-master	Silene stellate		rattlesnake bite ⁵⁸	juice
Red Oak	Quercus maxima	bark	night and "mivard" fevers, appetite stimulant, inflamed wound, sore throat, mouth ulcers	infusion-tea poultice ⁵⁹ infusion-gargle
Red Pepper		seed	colds that make bones ache	infusion-tea
Pepper, Black	Sinapis nigra		mild sore throat	aceta-gargle ⁶⁰
Ricket Weed			laxative	infusion-tea
Rosemary	Rosmarinus officinalis		fever, colic from overeating	infusion-tea
Sage ⁶¹ (Broom-sedge)		straw straw straw leaves	dysentery eyewash "prevents gravel" ⁶² diaphoretic sore throat	infusion-tea decoction-wash infusion-tea ⁶³ aceta-inhalation ⁶⁴
St. John's Weed	Hypericum officinalis	stems	old sores	salve ⁶⁵

Common Name	Proper Name	Part Used	Folklore Use	Preparation & Form Used
Sarsaparilla	Smilax spc.	root	scrofulous sores, skin diseases, cleaning the blood	infusion-tea ⁶⁶
Sassafras	S. varifolium	branch	eyewash	wash ⁶⁷
		root	rheumatism, tonic aphrodisiac-ingred.	tea ⁶⁸
Scurvy grass	Barbara verna ⁷⁰	root	laxative	solution ⁶⁹
Skullcap ⁷¹			weak nerves	decoction-tea
Silver grass			"drives out swelling"	decoction-tea
Sheep Saffron			measles panacea	infusion-tea
Skunk Cabbage	Symplocarpus	root	asthma, pleurisy, insomnia	inhale smoke, syrup, solution ⁷²
Slippery Elm (Red Elm)	Ulnus fulva	inner bark	boils, abrasions	poultice
Snakeroot, ⁷³ Samson Sanford Seneka			fevers and colds, colic, dysentery, rheumatism, rattlesnake bite	infusion-tea
				poultice
Sourwood		buds	cough	syrup ⁷⁴
"Sparemint"	Mentha spicata	herb	menstruation after confinement	infusion-tea
Squaw Weed ⁷⁵		leaves	menstrual pains	infusion-tea
Squills	Scilla		asthma	syrup
Sumac	Rhus spc.	root	colitis	tea ⁷⁶
Sugar cane		juice	malaria	crude ⁷⁷
Sweetgum	Liquidambar styraciflua	bark	cough, burns swelling feet ⁷⁹	crude ⁷⁸
				salve ⁸⁰
				tea ⁸¹
Thyme	Thymus vulgaris	herb	shortness of breath, "strengthens the lungs"	galenical solution
Tobacco	Nicotiana tobaccum	herb	cures "cottonworm" bite, cures bee sting lice, nits	crude
				salve ⁸²
Turnip	Brassica (some spc.)	root	cough and cold	syrup ⁸³
Violet	Viola spc.	leaves	foot sores	infusion-tea
Wahoo	Euonymus atropurpureus	bark	aphrodisiac-ingred.	solution ⁸⁴
Watermelon	Citrullus citrullus	seed	diarrhea	infusion-tea
Walnut	Juglans nigra	leaf	ringworm	juice ⁸⁵
		fruit	ringworm, for sore eyes	wash ⁸⁶
		bark	"draws poison"	poultice ⁸⁷
		hulls	maggots ⁸⁸	
Wormwood	Artemesia spc., esp. A. absinthium	herb	inflammation other uses ⁹⁰	poultice ⁸⁹
Yellow Dock	Rumex crispus	root	for bleeding in stomach	liquid ⁹¹
Yellowroot ⁹²		root	for sore ulcerated mouth ⁹³	

NOTES

¹Balm of Gilead buds, elder (or alder?) bark and bittersweet roots, equal quantities of each, were steeped and strained. Then mutton tallow and lard were added and the mixture boiled until all the water was removed.

²See note 1.

³Boil Balm of Gilead bark with Sweetgum bark and lard to make salve. This plant may be *Melissa officinalis*, known colloquially as "goose tongue," "Sweet Mary" and lemon lobelia, the leaves and herbs of which are used frequently in folk medicine.

⁴Directions for bearfoot were simply "boil down to a salve."

⁵The birthroot (wake-robin, tru-love or wood lily) is mentioned repeatedly. The root of this mountain plant is collected in late summer.

⁶*Solanum dulcamara* L., also called bittersweet, is a nightshade containing solanine.

⁷See note 1.

⁸Boil a handful of bruised roots in one and a half pints of water and boil down to a pint. No directions were given for the diarrhea preparation, but the patient is to drink freely.

⁹Both *Asarum canadense* and *Cimicifuga racemosa* are called black-snake root. *A. canadense* L. is also known as colic root, and the rootstock is collected in the autumn. *C. racemosa* L. is known as cohosh, rattleweed or squaw root, and the rootstock is collected when the fruit opens.

¹⁰Bloodroot or puccoon root is related to the poppy. The rootstock is gathered in the autumn and is steeped in vinegar to use as a wash. There is a reference to a poisoning attempt in Grovetown, Georgia, in 1896 in which powdered "pecune" root was added to coffee, however, the result was not recorded.

¹¹May refer to *Typha glauca* (Godron), a cattail, or to *Iris versicolor*.

¹²Elecampane root and blue flag root, a half pound of each, in two gallons of water and boil down to a quart, then add a pint of molasses. Take one-half gill three times a day. This was given as an old Indian remedy, but the directions are surely of English origin.

¹³Also known as "fever weed," "Indian sage" and "wild Isaac." The decoction of leaves, tops and flowers is served strong and hot.

¹⁴A knowledgeable worker on the Project suggested in her report that this preparation be mixed with 15 drops of *Nux Vomica* or a pint of strong coffee as a cardiac stimulant.

¹⁵Sweet flag may be made into a confection as follows: small pieces of rootstock are steeped in boiling water, then a candy made using boiling syrup. Apparently such candy was often distributed by the plantation masters. For dysentery or colic the whole root is chewed.

¹⁶A liquid formula called for cherry and dogwood barks; for increased effect red oak bark may be added. We assume this is *Prunus serotina*, the wild black cherry, which is common throughout the northern half of the State.

¹⁷Also called China Tree or Pride of India. Fruit, bark and flowers may be used as an anthelmintic, presumably in the form of galenicals.

¹⁸Also known as clutbur or burweed. "May be used like Poke with mineral oil, lard or sweet oil."

¹⁹For head cold, the scent of "just-hot-dropped corn drug." A hot drug poultice also draws out fever of pneumonia lungs. This plant might be the corncockle, corn-champion or purple cockle, which is reported to have poisoned stock.

²⁰This simple treatment is to dip bruised cotton leaves in water and wrap them around the body.

²¹This preparation of crowfoots is very powerful and is to be administered in small doses. Reference could be made to either of two plants. The *Ranunculus* species, common in moist places throughout the State, includes buttercups and goldcups as well as aconite. The other plant known as crowfoots is the wild geranium, *Geranium maculatum*.

²²This infusion of dog fennel (mayweed or pigweed) is to be administered hot, as a tea or wash, for fever. The synonym, pigweed, stems from the plant's common occurrence in pig lots.

²³This preparation consists of equal quantities of mullein leaves, sweetgum and elbow root. The decoction is to be drunk for swelling feet.

²⁴The leaves, buds and shoots, as well as the bark, are commonly used in folk medicine. The berries of *S. nigra* and *S. canadensis* were used as diaphoretics and aperients.

²⁵See note 12.

²⁶This also is reported as an Indian remedy. Apply the juice from the bruised fig leaf directly to the ring-worm.

²⁷Boil flax seeds with wormwood tops.

²⁸This plant may be either the *Viola tricolor* or the *Cheriranthus cheirie*. One is to make a strong infusion and drink freely of it.

²⁹The horsemint or wild bergamot is also called beebalm, implying a folklore use not reported.

³⁰May be *Gelsenium rankinii* or *G. sempervirens*.

³¹*Chenopodium* seed (wormweed) was crushed and mixed with syrup for use as a spring tonic. In an interview, a former slave explained how to make the Jerusalem oak candy so often mentioned by the slaves as a remembered treat. The leaves of the bush are boiled, then sugar is added to the solution to make the candy. In another interview this candy, or one similar, was reported as a powerful emetic. Owing to the popularity of the candy in the memories of many, we suspect that the word emetic was used by mistake or some other formula is involved.

³²For headache or high blood pressure a cooked mash like mass of Jimson weed was tied to the head as a poultice. Unfortunately we have no directions on the use of *D. stramonium* for heart dropsy. Folklore medicine employed flowers, leaves and seeds.

³³Bruise thorn apple (Jimson weed) leaves and stew in an equal quantity of hog lard. Strain and use as a healing ointment.

³⁴Boiling water is poured over "lightwood" (fat pine) splinters or pine buds may be steeped in hot water. Drink warm for lung troubles.

³⁵Probably *Agrimonia eupatoria* or *Alliaria officinalis*.

³⁶For goiter, steep mullein leaves in boiling vinegar, allow to cool, and rub the goiter with the liquid three or four times a day.

³⁷This is a decoction of mullein leaves, sweetgum and honey.

³⁸This preparation is the same as above with the addition of wild cherry bark.

³⁹See note 23.

⁴⁰*Prunus persica* and *Amygdalus persica*. For constipation the leaves are par boiled then fried in hot grease and eaten.

⁴¹Crush and heat leaves for a poultice to head a boil.

⁴²Bruised leaves are dipped in salty vinegar and applied to the body.

⁴³Steep the leaves in a quart of water, boil to a pint and strain. Return to the fire with a half pound of loaf sugar, and boil to a thin syrup. Administer every hour.

⁴⁴This poultice consists of peach leaf tea and cornmeal.

⁴⁵Powder the kernels and make a poultice with flour dough and honey.

⁴⁶*H. pulegioides* L. is also known as squaw mint, slink weed and mosquito plant. However, another plant, *Mentha pulegium* is also called pennyroyal.

⁴⁷Sprigs of pennyroyal placed under the mattress are said to drive away fleas.

⁴⁸Make a strong decoction of pine and sourwood buds, mix with brown sugar and honey and cook to a syrup.

⁴⁹For colds or bronchitis drink this infusion instead of water.

⁵⁰Flavor this pine tar with honey and alcohol.

⁵¹Use the bark of the root. This decoction is the only liquid to be taken for three days.

⁵²Preparations are made with sweet oil, mineral oil or lard. These preparations were also regarded as treatments for poke poisoning.

⁵³Serve as greens. Cook the shoots, young branches and leaves in two waters, discarding the first water which contained the poisons.

⁵⁴Rabbit tobacco, also called life-everlasting and father weed, makes a spicy broth that carried many a colonial family through periods of starvation. The preparation for whooping cough was sweetened with molasses.

⁵⁵The herb is boiled with sage, ginger, wahoo bark and yellow sassafras roots, then whiskey is added.

⁵⁶"White weed tea" was drunk cold for lucheria. White weed might also refer to *G. obtusifolium*.

⁵⁷For fever one may prepare a poultice or bathe in the tea.

⁵⁸The rattlesnake master was very important in conjuring and was sold throughout the South by traveling root men. It was also regarded as a sovereign remedy for rattlesnake bite.

⁵⁹Red oak bark tea is mixed with meal and cooked to a mush for use as a poultice.

⁶⁰This gargle is made with vinegar and black pepper.

⁶¹In the Piedmont sections of Georgia, reference to sage may be broomsedge or to the aromatic sage. Therefore they are placed together.

⁶²Broomsedge straw is added to the watering trough to prevent gravel.

⁶³One may use lemon in this preparation.

⁶⁴Inhale steam from hot vinegar in which sage leaves were steeped.

⁶⁵A strong decoction of stems is strained and added to mutton suet. The water is boiled out to make a healing salve.

⁶⁶Add one ounce of whole root to two quarts of water and boil down to one quart. Drink a pint a day of the fresh tea.

⁶⁷Soak the pithy heart of the young sassafras branch.

⁶⁸Make a tea of sassafras root, bark and flowers.

⁶⁹See note 55.

⁷⁰This plant could be the *Brassica nigra* or the early wintercress, *Barbarea verna*. A cupful is administered at bedtime.

⁷¹This plant may be the red mustard, whose seeds are used in folklore medicine.

⁷²Use equal parts of skunk cabbage root, butterfly weed root, scullcap and lady slipper, using a total of one ounce in the mixture. Steep in a pint of water, strain, and administer two ounces three to four times a day.

⁷³There is much confusion regarding the many snakeroots, and this is compounded by the tendency for many people to interchange the names. The first reference was described by an old half Indian "as bitter as quinine." *Asarum*, the black snakeroot, is often used in folklore. *Eupatorium rugosum*, the white snakeroot, is very common in Georgia mountain areas. The Samson snakeroot also may be a *Liatris*.

⁷⁴See note 48.

⁷⁵The Squaw weed "grows wild and has yellow blossoms like the goober." A hot tea of the leaves is drunk at bedtime for monthly pains. We note that there is plant called Squaw root, the *Caulophyllum thalictroides*.

⁷⁶Probably *Rhus copallina*, the shiny sumac. Make a tea of the root and make a meal with brown cornbread with pepper and salt. Lick the

meal from the hand and wash it down with the tea. Nothing other than this preparation is to be eaten or drunk.

⁷⁷"Some doctors claim sugar cane juice is good for malaria and require their patients to drink a quart to a gallon a day."

⁷⁸Chew sweetgum with elbow root for cough.

⁷⁹See note 23.

⁸⁰See note 3.

⁸¹See notes 37 and 38.

⁸²Make an ointment of tobacco tea with butter.

⁸³Pour two ounces of molasses over a hot boiled turnip, let stand for 15 minutes, then pour off and squeeze the turnip. Take warm at bedtime for cough and cold.

⁸⁴See note 55.

⁸⁵Two treatments for ringworm were very similar. One used the bruised leaf and the other used a cut green walnut. "Let the juice drip on the ringworm."

⁸⁶For sore eyes catch the rain drippings from a black walnut tree, and bathe the eyes in this liquid.

⁸⁷A tea made from the bark is used in making a poultice with bread.

⁸⁸It is reported that the green hulls of black walnut killed maggots. This was important information to a pioneer stock farmer for maggots were often found in neglected wounds on cattle.

⁸⁹See note 27.

⁹⁰The bitter, slightly aromatic plant was used as a tonic and as a vermifuge and was also used to protect articles from moths.

⁹¹This is "narrow dock" or "curled dock." Roots were gathered in summer and fall. In this supposed Indian remedy, a pound of dried roots is pulverized, boiled in a quart of milk and a gill taken three times a day. It helps to include some white pine turpentine.

⁹²The *Captis trifolium* (canker-root or mouth-root) which occurs in the Piedmont area is our best prospect. However, *Hydrastis canadensis*, the tumeric root, is also called yellow root.

⁹³Hold root in mouth for sore or ulcerated mouth.

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